

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



TELEPHONE (201) 664-7100 EXT. 106 • FAX (201) 664-5340 • 101 WASHINGTON AVENUE • WESTWOOD, NJ 07675
EMAIL: JBIRKNER@WESTWOODNJ.GOV • WEBSITE: WWW.WESTWOODNJ.GOV

August 12, 2011

Dear Residents,

Here is a brief update on some recent activity that has taken place with regard to the issue of flooding in the Pascack Valley.

As a precursor to the upcoming public meeting on Flooding, the Pascack Valley Waterway Management Task Force (PVWMTF) conducted a preliminary workshop meeting on Thursday August 11th. The meeting was one of a series of meetings held by the task force over the past year for the purpose of finding a solution to the flooding issues that have plagued our region for decades. Thursday's meeting lasted over three hours and was extremely productive and informative. The invited participants were able to review some of the historical information compiled with regard to flooding issues in Westwood and throughout the Pascack Valley, as well as to listen to a presentation made by officials from United Water. It was very important for the invited participants to gain a better understanding of the tremendous impact our region has experienced and to familiarize themselves with the details we will be reviewing with the public.

As members of the task force, Councilwoman Waneck and Mayor Birkner attended along with Borough Administrator Bob Hoffmann and OEM Coordinator Darren Blankenbush as representatives of the Borough. The information presented will help to guide us as we prepare for the future and in mitigating the effects of storm related flooding events in our region. This important meeting was a critical step in the process initiated over a year ago with the formation of this task force for collaborative action by the Pascack Valley Mayor's Association and the member municipalities impacted by flooding. The continued participation of our Federal and State legislators, county officials, and local professionals will prove to be invaluable for the successful review and implementation of policy and procedures that will help our residents as we continue to move forward in our goal of providing relief for those residents who reside in flood prone areas of the borough.

During this planning process for the upcoming public meeting to address the concerns of our residents, we were able to obtain the commitment of participation

by many of the experts in various disciplines that were invited to attend and who will be instrumental in assisting with our efforts, and for the public benefit. This "panel of experts" will include Federal and State representatives from the Army Corps. of Engineers, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Dam Safety, Bureau of Water Supply, and Bureau of Stream Permitting, and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The office of the County Executive has committed representation by the County Departments that have been involved in the efforts, and we also have our individual engineering experts that will be participating. United Water has also committed to attend the public session to answer questions from our residents, review the recent storm events, past flooding history in the region, and also to provide an update and overview of their project to improve the structural integrity of the Woodcliff Lake Dam.

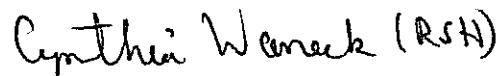
We are hopeful to hold the public meeting in approximately one month, looking at mid-September as a potential time frame. We are also seeking a host site for this meeting in a venue that will be suitable for a large number of attendees.

On behalf of the governing body and the members of the PVWMTF, we thank you for your patience as we prepare for the public meeting by assembling the most knowledgeable panel of experts available, and providing the most accurate and comprehensive information possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Birkner, Jr.", with a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

John Birkner, Jr. – Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Waneck (RSH)", with a stylized, somewhat abstract shape.

Cynthia Waneck - Councilmember